

E 185
.93
.02 03
Copy 1

Memorial of the Ohio
Anti Slavery Society to the
General Assembly of the
State of Ohio - 1838.





Class E185.93

Book 0203





120
MEMORIAL

OF THE

391
929
OHIO ANTI SLAVERY SOCIETY,

TO THE

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

OF THE

STATE OF OHIO.

CINCINNATI

PUGH & DODD—PRINTERS—FIFTH & MAIN.

1838.

E 125

.93.

0203

4 54 05

104

hlee-el

2, 3, 17/4/11

MEMORIAL.

The undersigned, citizens of Ohio, being appointed a Committee by the Executive Committee of the "Ohio Anti Slavery Society," to prepare a memorial in behalf of our colored population, and to present the same to the Legislature of this State ; do, in accordance with the above instructions, bring in remembrance before your honorable body, the unprotected condition of our colored inhabitants ; *and on their behalf, we respectfully pray, that all those statutes which discriminate between men, on account of color, be immediately repealed.*

The first reason which we would assign for this request is, that *color is no crime*. We should not make that criminal, which of itself has no character, or if it has, is perfectly innocent.

2d. *These people are men.*—The same general principles obtain in reference to them as to other men.

3d. Laws, bearing oppressively upon any class of men, are both unjust and impolitic :—unjust, because they afford not that protection of rights which every man is entitled to : impolitic, because they habituate the privileged class to acts of oppression, and thus destroy that keen sense of justice which is the only safe-guard of Liberty, and render the degraded class unpatriotic by lessening their interest in the welfare of society, deprave their morals, and tend to make them jealous and vindictive.

4th. Laws, that single out and bear oppressively upon any part of the inhabitants of a country, degrade that part—Therefore :

5th. It is the highest political wisdom to grant equal protection to all ; for just in proportion as all are protected in their persons, industry and liberty, does a nation become elevated and prosperous. Witness for example the abolition of the feudal

system in England and France, and the consequent advancement of literature and science, wealth and civilization.

6th. *They are hostile to liberty*—anti-republican, making artificial distinctions in society, thus cultivating in the minds of the people monarchical and feudal notions, which, if persisted in, will ultimately revolutionize our government.

We have heard but two arguments set up in defence of these laws. The first is, that the blacks are an idle, thievish, worthless class of people.

The second is, that if we should equalize our laws, it would encourage them to settle in our state in greater numbers.

In our memorial we shall answer these two objections at length.

With regard to the first, we are prepared to prove, that it does not set forth the true character of the colored people as a body, or of a majority of them. Our position is sustained by the following facts and testimony which we have collected from the various settlements of colored people scattered over the state.

COLUMBUS.

In Columbus there are 23 colored persons who own real estate, assessed at \$14,000. They are industrious, orderly and useful,—16 of them being mechanics, viz. 1 stone mason, 5 shoemakers, 3 black-smith shops carried on by them, 2 painters, 1 house joiner. They have also two churches, one Methodist of 100 members, and one Baptist; also two schools of 70 scholars, supported entirely by themselves.

Last winter a ladies' benevolent society collected food, fuel, and clothing, to distribute among the destitute poor of the city. Committees were appointed in different parts, to search out the needy and bestow their charities. Two were appointed to visit the colored people. After carefully performing their duty and visiting from house to house among them, they could not find a solitary family which stood in need of aid—not one but what was abundantly supplied with food, fuel and clothing. The society disposed of all their charities amongst poor white people.

COLUMBIANA COUNTY.

In Smith township, Columbiana county, there is a settlement

of colored people, extending into Stark county. They number 264 individuals, owning 1860 acres of land, valued at \$29,200 ; 70 horses, valued at \$2,800 ; 213 head of cattle, valued at \$2,556 ; 328 sheep, valued at \$656 ; farming utensils and other articles, valued at \$4,235 ; whole amount \$39,445. They have two school houses, with a school in each ; a church of 100 members ; a Sunday school, with a library of 120 volumes ; 4 preachers ; and a large temperance society. No quarrelling or fighting at all, nor one case of theft has ever been known in the settlement, since it was first commenced, 18 years ago.

For further particulars your memorialists would refer to Job Johnson, Esq. merchant of Mount Union, Stark county, who resides near the settlement.

There is another settlement in this county, near Salem, containing 28 families, owning 935 acres of land, with horses, cattle, sheep, &c. the total valuation of which amounts to \$7,751.

Extract of a letter recently received from J. D. C. of Salem.

"The general character of the colored people in this vicinity is good. Some of them are remarkable for honesty and uprightness of character ; and upon the whole they are quite equal to the corresponding class among the whites. There is not one among them to my knowledge, (and I am acquainted with nearly all) addicted to the vice of intemperance. *Many* of them are members of religious societies, and *most* of them members of a temperance society of their own formation. Their children are being educated, and many of them can read and write very well. A majority of the families are emancipated slaves, who immigrated to this state in 1823—'6 & '7."

'We the undersigned, citizens of the town of Salem, believe, and hereby testify, that the character and condition of the colored people of this vicinity, as above represented, is substantially correct.

JACOB HEATEN,
BENJ. B. STANTON,
ZADOK STREET,
SAMUEL C. PRESCOTT.'

The persons, whose names are here subscribed, are with one exception, merchants, who are in the habit of dealing with the colored people. The other. (Dr. Stanton) is one of our oldest physicians.

Joseph Brooks, Esq. a lawyer of Salem, has furnished us the following additional testimony.

Says he, "cases have occurred here in which colored men have lost property by our oppressive laws : one of labor, where the employer refused to pay : another, where a colored man's horse was shot, and colored people saw the act, but no redress could be had.

"Only one colored man has been found guilty of petit larceny in the last five years.

"I would as soon take their oath under the same circumstances as that of the whites. In cases that have occurred in law I have noticed, that the statement first made by the colored man is almost uniformly established by testimony, and that there is less prevarication on their part than on the part of the whites. This I have often remarked to those who stood by.

"There is no necessity for laws distinguishing between blacks and whites."

LOGAN COUNTY.

There is a large settlement in Zanesfield, Logan county. Many of them own land. One has the name of being one of the best farmers in the county. He settled here when the country was new, on new land, 17 years ago. Besides owning here one of the best farms, and bringing up a family of 12 children, he has during the last year, purchased and paid for one thousand acres of government land. In general they have the name amongst their neighbors, of being honest, industrious, and moral ; of being equal in all these respects to many settlements of white people. Several have purchased government land during the past year. They have a Methodist church and a school.

GUERNSEY COUNTY.

There are many colored people settled in Guernsey county. They have a character for honesty, industry and good morals, equal to any class of citizens. They are mechanics, and farmers, and laborers, of a respectable reputation.

Two of their number went to the West, this fall, to purchase new land for eleven. They were prepared to pay for 320 acres (half a section) for each.

JEFFERSON COUNTY.

There are three settlements in Jefferson county. A large and respectable part of the white citizens are anxious that their disabilities should be removed, and testify, without reserve, to their industry and good moral character. As a specimen, we give the following from Mr. Robinson, of Mount Pleasant.—Mr. Robinson, in answer to questions proposed, made the following statement:—

1st. “I think that the colored people of Mt. Pleasant are of a character equal to that of the whites.

2d. “I hire as much as any man about here, and many of my laborers are colored men. I find them a peaceable, trustworthy and industrious class of laborers.

3d. “I would believe their word as soon as that of other men.

4th. “I do not know any reason why they should not be allowed their oath in a court of justice, which does not exist equally against the whites.

5th. “I have known white people in this neighborhood, molest their neighbors’ property, but I never knew the colored people to do the like.”

David Updegraff of Mt. Pleasant, makes the following statement:—“I employ many colored men, more colored than white, and I have never had but one dishonest colored man, though I have had several whites that I suspected. Besides, I have no recollection of a colored man being called up here for theft.—They support themselves comfortably. I do not know that they get anything but what they earn, and there is not a colored pauper in the place. Two have tended mill for my brother several years, and were counted very industrious and honest men. Several have rented farms and worked on shares, as other men do; though I do not think they are the best of farmers. One is a good waggon maker. Their general character is such, that it would not be injurious to the country to allow them their testimony in a court of justice. I think they would be quite as likely to tell the truth as the common run of men.”

There is a colored school and church in this place.

There is a small settlement in Smithfield, Jefferson County. In answer to questions proposed, Benjamin Ladd gives the following testimony:

1st. "I suppose their testimony in a court of justice is entitled to the same credit as the testimony of white people.

2d. "Such as I employ, are as valuable laborers as any in the community. One has lived with me 12 or 15 years. Such is my confidence in his honesty and ability, that I trust him with my farm, consisting of 220 acres of land, and stock, which he works upon shares, giving me one half. I trust the measuring of the grain and every thing else with him, and I believe he never wrongs me. During the time he has been with me, he has purchased a farm of 100 acres, and now has money on hand.

3d. "The blacks here are not any more thievish than the whites.

4th. "It is equally impolitic and unjust to have laws that apply unequally to our citizens.

5th. "Eight or ten families own land in this neighborhood.

6th. "There is not one pauper amongst them.

7th. "They are more patient of injuries than the whites.

From Steubenville, we have received the following:—

1st. "The colored people here, as a class, are industrious, and honest, and peaceable.

2d. "There is no necessity for laws distinguishing black citizens from white.

3d. "They do not steal, or drink, or quarrel more than white people.

4th. "There are no paupers amongst them.

5th. "But one case of stealing has occurred amongst them within our knowledge.

6th. "They are useful as laborers, and are worthy citizens; several of them being draymen, and carpenters, and one a cabinet maker. One has been free 35 years—has lived in Steubenville during the whole of this time—has learned the carpenter's trade—often employs 4 or 5 journeymen—is crowded with work constantly—lives in a good brick house of

his own building, worth \$2,500, and owns two city lots besides.

"The colored population of this county is about 300.

DAVID POWELL,
T. A. PLANTS,
WM. ROBERTSON."

CLARK COUNTY.

In Springfield and its neighborhood, there are 30 families' containing 200 individuals. Of these, 14 are farmers, 4 are waggoners, who drive their own teams, 4 own real estate, and 4 have bought themselves, and paid \$1,000 for their freedom. One who has been free four years, has in that time worked a farm on shares and paid the purchase money for his own body, (\$300) and this fall was prepared to buy half a section (320 acres) of government land. One, who has been a slave 40 years, built a school house on his own lot, at his own expense, in which there is a school of 30 scholars. One is a good blacksmith, who owns a shop, &c. &c.

They have a Methodist church of 18 members.

Three of the two hundred are drunkards.

HIGHLAND COUNTY.

There are several families of colored people residing in Highland county. Some of them own land, and others lease. Seven of the number have been to the West, and purchased new land during the past year. From a letter just received from Col. Wm. Keys, of Hillsboro', we make the following extract:—

"The habits of the colored people of this county, so far as I know, (and I have considerable knowledge of them) are good. They are industrious, civil, and very generally peaceable citizens. They earn their living by hard and honest labor, with but very few exceptions. Several families are distinguished as patterns of industry, sobriety and economy. What disadvantage it would be to the state to admit such persons to a full and equal enjoyment of their rights, the proud and bloated aristocrat may perceive, but I cannot.

"We have 20 or 30 in our Sabbath school. They make good progress. The colored people have recently built a

house in town for the double purpose of a meeting house and a school house.

"I have known of a number of cases in which the laws of the state have operated very severely on people of color. I would mention, as a sample:—On two different occasions, colored females have applied to me, as a justice of the peace, for redress. In the first, a female was beaten with a stick of considerable size, by a man whose moral character by no means equals that of most of our colored people. This was witnessed by a white woman, but she was unwilling to file an affidavit to obtain a warrant, and the colored girl could not have her oath, legally, because the offender had a white skin. The other, an old lady, the mother of a large family, had her head severely cut by a stick of considerable size, thrown at her by the same man. She showed me the cut in her head, and the stick; but the laws of Ohio do not permit the oath of a colored person, when one party is white. Her daughter, a young woman, was present, but no redress could be had.—Two or three cases of colored men have been represented to me, of a similar kind, yet I know of no method of redress, while the law of the state remains."

BROWN COUNTY.

'That body of colored people, which has been exalted into notice more than any other—which has been set like a city upon a hill, and appealed to on all occasions, as a silencing argument of the inferiority of colored people every where—is located in Brown county. Whilst your memorialists admit, that they cannot say very much in their praise, they would also add the belief, that their character for evil has been very much over drawn and exaggerated; and that their good qualities, what few they possess, have been underrated, or entirely overlooked.

Mr. Samuel W. Graves, a young man, who has been teaching a school in the "Lower Camp," during the past year, states, in a letter just received, "That there are 227 individuals in the "Upper Camp," and 205 in the "Lower Camp."—The schools in each settlement, have averaged from 35 to 40 scholars daily. They have a Temperance Society of about

50, in both settlements. They have three churches; two Baptist, numbering 85 members, and one Methodist, with 10 members.

"And now for their character, which is bad enough. Though I may safely say, that if John Patterson of this place, stated in the Legislature last winter, the things which report says he did about them, he stated that which he would not have stated had he known the facts in the case. There is considerable whiskey drinking among them; though I do not recollect to have seen more than one or two intoxicated. I have yet to hear the third man amongst them make use of profane language. As to their stealing, more than their neighbors, this may do to tell. But three have ever been confined in the county jail for stealing, during their residence of 18 years in this State, and one of them was sent to the state's prison. If anything is missing among their white neighbors, immediately there is a great hue and cry raised about the *niggers' stealing*. But it as often turns out that the sons of Japhet know as much, yea, more of the matter, than their darker skinned cousins, sons of their uncle Ham.

"Perhaps the greatest fault of the colored men in the "Camp," is, that they consider truth a shifty article. There are many of them who do not stick at all times to the truth, and love it even if it is ugly. But still there is three times the truth one might expect to find amongst beings placed in their circumstances."

To this we will add a communication from Abraham Pettyjohn, which was written in 1835. Mr. P. is an elder in the Presbyterian church:

"I do hereby certify, that I have lived in the immediate vicinity of the "Camps," in Brown County, ever since they were settled, 16 years ago, in 1819. I have had almost daily opportunity of becoming accurately acquainted with their situation, habits, customs, moral character and mode of life, both in their domestic relations among themselves, and in their relations and intercourse with the surrounding white inhabitants.

"I would remark in the first place, that the entire neighborhood in which they settled, was very greatly opposed to their

being located in its vicinity—expecting that they would be exceedingly troublesome as neighbors—thievish, drunken, quarrelsome, strolling vagabonds, and preying upon the community. So strong was this feeling, that the property of many individuals in the surrounding settlement, could have been purchased for one half its value. The dissatisfaction of the neighborhood was very much increased by a letter, written by a distinguished citizen of Highland county, and published in the newspapers. This gentleman was then on a visit to Virginia, and there learned, from general report and testimony, that the 500 about to be brought to this place, were regarded as the most ignorant, degraded and depraved set of slaves in all that region. In his letter, he detailed these particulars at length. The letter was published here, shortly before the slaves arrived.

“If it is asked how they have succeeded, and whether these fearful anticipations respecting them have been realized, I answer, No! Quite the reverse. I do not believe there is one of their neighbors, who would now, after 16 years experience, sell his farm at all under the real value.

“There is not more stealing done, either among themselves, or from the whites, than is common among whites. And I feel impelled to add, that the whites have not suffered from the duplicity, cheating and knavery of the blacks, one fourth part as much as the blacks have suffered from the whites in these respects. The truth is, the blacks have been most monstrously imposed upon, cheated and wronged in a multitude of ways, by unprincipled men throughout the surrounding region of country. This will be testified to by all the intelligent, candid and respectable inhabitants in this vicinity, who are at all acquainted with the facts.

“If it is asked, whether they quarrel and fight and go to law amongst themselves, I answer, not more than is common for the same number of whites.

“‘Are they given to intemperance?’ Some of them are; but not a larger number than is common among white settlements of the same size. ‘Are they intelligent, and have they some education?’ But few of them can read or write; they are generally very ignorant. ‘Are they contentious and quar-

relsome with the whites?" No! They quarrel far less with the whites, than the whites do with one another. Also, I never have heard of a single instance, in which a single one of them has been guilty of the least improper conduct, or language, towards white females. 'Is the amalgamation of colors going on at the "Camps?"' During the whole time that the blacks have been here, only one *mulatto* child has been born in the "Camps." 'Have any of them been convicted of stealing?' Yes; one of them for stealing a horse! This is the only instance that I have ever heard in the "Upper Camps." In the "Straight Creek Camps," there have been two or three instances of convictions for petty stealing.

"Are they prompt and punctual in their engagements?" Many of them are not, but are lax and dilatory; though this has been the case, mainly, since the great money pressure within the last few years.

"Having resided very near them since they have been here, and having owned a mill, at which they get all their grinding done, I have had constant opportunities to inspect their actual condition, habits and moral conduct; and the above is the testimony which I feel it my duty to render, as an act of simple justice, to those who have been grossly misrepresented.

"ABRAHAM PETTYJOHN.

"P. S. The land on which they live, is so wet and swampy, as well as very hard to cultivate, that it would be impossible for the greatest industry and frugality to procure from it a good living, with the small quantity of land allowed to each.

"A. P."

As Brown county has been a standing argument of the inferiority of the colored man, we are unwilling to leave it, without mentioning the 15 or 20 families scattered over the county, who own or lease farms.

One, (Charles Black,) owns property, valued at 5 or \$6,000. Another owns a farm worth \$3,000. Others own smaller farms. Five of those who lease land, have, during the past year, purchased of the government. Several have paid for their land, after purchasing their own bodies. For instance, Samuel Jones paid \$500 for his body. Basil Dover paid \$1,700 for himself and family; and David Rees paid \$500 for himself.

DARK COUNTY.

There is a farming colored settlement in Dark county. It numbers about 100 adults, owning 4,147 acres of land. There is one carpenter, one black smith, one tanner, two bricklayers, and two stone masons; all work more or less at their respective trades. They have 914 acres of land cleared in the settlement, 21 acres in orcharding, all bearing. Their settlement is a lot of choice land. The corn grows stout and heavy, averaging 70 bushels per acre. Every thing wears the aspect of a thriving industrious people. Their farms are in a good state of cultivation, the fences high and strong, and the buildings in good repair.

But to be more particular, and to mention a few individual cases, will perhaps be more satisfactory, and will more clearly show the uncommon energy of character which some of these people possess.

Isaac Holland came from Virginia—was worth nothing—now owns 160 acres of land, and has 100 acres cleared—had 25 in corn the past year—has a large house and barn, two cows, 2 horses, 12 sheep and 50 hogs. He has bought his father and paid \$200 for him.

Ezekiel Lewis owns 200 acres of land—50 cleared—2 horses—3 cows—5 sheep—25 hogs, and had 14 acres in corn the past year.

Thornton Alexander owns 520 acres of land—has 160 cleared—17 sheep—6 cows—4 work horses—52 hogs—2 acres in orcharding—45 acres in corn, and 100 bushels of wheat the past year. This man was a slave till he was thirty-six years old, in Virginia. He was then emancipated, and came to this state with a wife and eight children, and had only \$5 in his pocket. His property he now values at \$15,000.

James Clemens owns 790 acres of land—has 100 cleared—3 cows—4 horses—12 sheep—50 hogs—4 acres in orchard—27 sowed in wheat, and had 50 in corn the past year. He and his wife were slaves till they were upwards of 30 years old, &c. &c.

They have built a school house this past fall ; they have also a Methodist church.

The following testimony to their character was given by

Mr. George J. Cowgill, who resides near them and keeps a public house and owns a large store.

“They do more business with me than any other community of the same number that I know of ; and I can take their word with as much confidence as that of any men who do business with me. In fact I think I may safely say that I can put *more reliance* on them than on the white people. They are as honest, as industrious and pious, as any settlement of white people within my knowledge.

“I have thought ever since I have been acquainted with them, that they ought to be allowed their oath in a court of justice. And further I think, they ought to be allowed their votes. They are quite as well qualified, as the whites in general, to judge of the requisite qualifications of a ruler.”

MERCER COUNTY.

In Mercer county about 100 colored men have purchased government land. During the last two years many of them have settled and others are moving on to it. In every aspect that we view them, they are seen to be as valuable and as good citizens as their white neighbors—as enterprising, industrious, persevering and honest. They are equally successful in raising crops, as the sun and the rain show no partiality, and even the trees fall as fast before the blows of the black man’s axe, as the white man’s.

The number of acres owned by them here is about 12,000.

SHELBY COUNTY.

Within the last five years, about forty colored men have purchased government land in Shelby county. Their character for industry and good morals stands as fair here as that of the white settlers. There are more colored than white people in this neighborhood. Yet within the last two years six white men have been arrested for stealing, and only two blacks.

They have a Methodist church here, a Sunday school and day school of about 30 scholars.

Colored men have good farms, good crops, and good stock ; they have showed themselves equally good citizens with the white people in every particular, where they have had an

equal opportunity. They need and they merit the protection of equal laws.

GREENE COUNTY.

Extract of a letter from Dr. Joseph Templeton, dated Xenia, January 3d, 1838.

"I have heard of but three or four intemperate colored persons in the county. They are accused of indolence; but I have seen no evidence of it. With one or two exceptions their houses exhibit plenty, comfort, and neatness. They are more intelligent than their situation would justify us in expecting, and manifest a very great anxiety for education and improvement. In the country there are three or four mechanics, who learned their trades in the slave states and carry on their business with respect and advantage to themselves and the community. There are a number of them who farm rented lands, and are in quite easy circumstances. The majority of this class have purchased or are preparing to purchase Congress land. There are several who have small farms of their own and are living well; and there is one who, during twenty three years of his bondage, paid for himself and family \$2,350 and now owns a farm of 254 acres, assessed at \$5,000 in this county—and 240 acres of new land.

"As proof that they are quiet and inoffensive citizens, I will transcribe verbatim, a certificate obtained from the Clerk of our county court.

"I do hereby certify, that only four persons of color have been convicted of crime in the court of Common Pleas of Green county, Ohio, during the past seven years, as appears from the records of said court. One for shooting with intent to kill, one for selling liquor without license, two for petit larceny—They were all I believe in the habit of occasional acts of intemperance.

"Given under my hand at Xenia, this 30th day of Dec. 1837.
T. MARSHAL, CLERK, G. C. P."

"I have conversed with a number of our citizens on the subject, and they all agree with me in the opinion, that the repeal of those laws could not possibly do any harm, and might result in much good to society at large."

The whole number of colored people in this county, is 289.

They have a day school and Sunday school.

A Methodist church of 33 members, and a Baptist church of 17 members. Four drunkards are reported.

MIAMI COUNTY.

Extract of a letter from Mr. Fairfield, of Troy, Miami co.

Dec. 31st, 1837.

"There are about 15 colored families in this place. They are in industry about on a common level with other people; None of them are wealthy; as many as six families are worth from 300, to \$500 each; one woman has lately come here from the South (a milliner merchant) who is probably worth 2 or \$3,000.

"*Morals.* Some are decidedly religious—most of them moral—2 or 3 intemperate—one an habitual drunkard—some dishonest, (will *probably* steal small articles,) and some are profane and truthless. But I am sure that if twice their number were counted off from the worst end of white society, they would, as a body, be much worse, and more troublesome than the blacks.

Of their religion I believe it is rather shallow and doubtful—though some are real ornaments to the church. They have suffered much by abuse from the church itself. I should say that no part of our population are more susceptible of religious instruction and impressions than the colored.

"This general truth I can state with confidence. If we were asked why our colored population are considered an injury to the place? we would unhesitatingly answer, because they are black. They would certainly, as a body, be regarded as respectable and useful if they were white. I have never heard of any one of them being brought before a magistrate for any crime, and I have heard of no disturbance made by them.

Whilst we persecute them, they will undoubtedly, in some degree, be our enemies. The repeal of our black laws would have a tendency to make them friends. I think it altogether certain that these laws are productive of no good at all in this place, and that their repeal would be beneficial and only beneficial to the whole community."

HAMILTON COUNTY.

The colored people of Cincinnati have three churches, 3 Sabbath schools, 3 day schools, a "Union society for the relief of its members," and a Temperance society. Trades are numerous : the following is an imperfect sketch.

Blacksmiths 3, carpenters and joiners 9, cabinet makers 2, plasterers 6, coopers 10, shoemakers 5, house painters 2, draymen 11, grocers 3, hucksters 5, masons 5, silversmith 1, barbers 20.

WARREN COUNTY.

Jonathan Wright, of Springboro' states, that "the number of colored people who reside in that place and its immediate vicinity, is about 65 or 70. Their general character is good and I think would not suffer by a comparison with that of the white population.

"They are believed to be honest with but very few exceptions, and most of them are industrious. A few of them own houses and lots in Springboro, and several of them are possessed of farms in the county. As laborers they are useful, and are esteemed the best among us. They sustain a character for truth and veracity which ought to give them credit in our courts of judicature; and I am persuaded the community would not suffer by receiving their testimony on all legal examinations. They support a school which has from 20 to 28 pupils."

From a communication of M. M. Clark, colored people's agent, we make the following extracts :

GALLIA COUNTY.

"Colored population 300. 12 own farms and cultivate them; 8 own real estate in Gallipolis, with from 3 to \$800 each; several families have abandoned the use of ardent spirits entirely—all maintain their own families, and in most instances give their children schooling. All are universally orderly and peaceable."

ROSS COUNTY.

"Colored population 8 or 900—20 farmers—7 own farms worth from 200 to \$1,000 each—5 mechanics in Chillicothe—2

churches of 100 members each—2 schools of eighty scholars—a Temperance society of 130 members—property valued at \$30,000.”

PICKAWAY COUNTY.

“Circleville has a colored population of 100—they have a Methodist church of 50 members, and a Temperance society of 21 members.”

FAIRFIELD COUNTY.

“Lancaster has a colored population of 100—one church of 50 members—one Temperance society of 15 members—amount of property owned by them \$5,000.”

MUSKINGUM COUNTY.

“Zanesville has a colored population of 250—they have a Methodist church of 60 members—1 school—a Temperance society of 20 members—a few are addicted to the habit of intemperate drinking—amount of property owned by them \$6,000.

“Their general character is acknowledged to be peaceable and orderly.”

Of the great number of colored farmers scattered over the state, much might be said. Their perseverance in buffeting wind and tide, their enterprise in surmounting obstacles, their success in spite of laws and prejudice, their quietness under insult, their forgiveness of injuries, patience, and forbearance under long inflicted wrongs and legal disabilities, recommend them at once, both to the admiration and pity of our legislature.

Of this class we will mention but a few. John Lewis of Palmyra, Warren county, though free born, was held as a slave till he was 30 years old. Since that time, he has by his own industry purchased a farm of 114 acres, valued now with the stock on it, at \$5,000; and during the past year he has put up a respectable looking house and grocery store worth \$500, in the town where he resides. As to his character it is unimpeachable.

John Jones, of Hamilton, Butler county, has a farm and stock worth \$2,000, which he has purchased within a few years. He is esteemed a very honorable man and a useful member of society. He has taken the premium at the agricultural fair, for three years in succession, for the best sheep.

Godfrey Brown, Green county, owns a farm of about three hundred acres, worth \$5,000, besides two hundred and fifty acres of new land. He was a slave, and paid \$2,350 for himself and family.

As a matter of curiosity to northern men, and of proof to all, we will insert this man's papers at length. Nearly all slaves who buy themselves have similar ones.

"Know all men by these presents, that I, John T. Bowdoin of Surry county, for and in consideration of the sum of *four hundred dollars* to me in hand paid, by negro man Godfrey of the county of Brunswick, a shoe maker by trade, have emancipated, and by these presents do emancipate and for ever set free, the said negro Godfrey, from this day henceforward; and I, the said John T. Bowdoin, do for myself, my heirs, executors and administrators, hereby release all claim to the service of the said negro Godfrey, from this day to the end of his life. As witness my hand and seal, this 15th day of August, 1814.

JOHN T. BOWDOIN, [SEAL.]

LUDWELL POWELL, }
ISAAC MASON, } *Witness.*

"Brunswick County Court, August 22d, 1814.

This deed of emancipation was proved by the oaths of the witnesses thereto, and ordered to be recorded. 'Test,

HERBERT HILL, C. B. C."

His agreement for the purchase of two children.

"Know all men by these presents, that I, John Tucker Bowdoin, of the county of Surry, in the State of Virginia, for and in consideration of the sum of *six hundred and eighty dollars*, to me in hand paid by negro man Godfrey, shoemaker, of the county of Brunswick, (which negro man Godfrey, was on the 14th day of August last emancipated by me,) at or before the ensealing and delivery of these presents, (the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged,) have bargained and sold, and do by these presents bargain and sell, unto the aforesaid negro man Godfrey, the following slaves, viz: Sally and Moses, children of the aforesaid Godfrey; to have and to hold the aforesaid slaves unto him the said Godfrey, his executors, administrators and assigns, forever. And I, the said John T.

Bowdoin, my executors, administrators and assigns, the aforesaid slaves, unto him, the said Godfrey, his executors, administrators and assigns, shall and will warrant and forever defend by these presents.

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto put my hand and seal, this 19th day of December, 1814.

JOHN T. BOWDOIN. [SEAL.]

EDWARD FAULCON, }
WILLIAM COLE, } *Witness."*

Purchase of his Wife.

"Surry County, Four Mile Tree, December 19, 1814.

Received of negro man Godfrey, (shoemaker) of the county of Brunswick, the sum of *one hundred and twenty dollars*, which is to be applied as a credit, by me to the said Godfrey, in the purchase of his wife, China, and her seven children, viz: Sam, Bibanna, Dick, Godfrey, Miles, Elizabeth and Polly—the two oldest children of the said Godfrey and China, viz: Sally and Moses, being this day paid for by the said Godfrey, to me, and a bill of sale given him by me for them.

JOHN T. BOWDOIN.

EDWARD FAULCON, }
WILLIAM COLE, } *Witness."*

Receipt for Money.

Brunswick County, March 30, 1815.

Received of negro man Godfrey, (shoemaker) formerly the property of John T. Bowdoin, of the county of Surry, the sum of *six hundred and fifty dollars*, in part of the purchase of his wife China and children, made by the aforesaid Godfrey of the said Bowdoin.

EDW. FAULCON, Att'y in fact, for
JOHN T. BOWDOIN.

BOWLIN SMITH, }
ELIZABETH POWELL, } *Witness."*

Final Bill of Sale of Wife and Children.

"Know all men by these presents, that I, Edward Faulcon, Attorney in fact for John T. Bowdoin, of the county of Surry, in the state of Virginia, for and in consideration of the sum of

five hundred dollars, being the balance due for the under-mentioned negroes, to me in hand paid by negro man Godfrey, (shoemaker) of the county of Brunswick, at or before the ensealing and delivery of these presents, (the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged,) I have bargained and sold, and do by these presents, bargain and sell unto the aforesaid negro man Godfrey, the following slaves, viz: China, wife of Godfrey, and his seven children, viz: Sam, Bibanna, Dick, Godfrey, Miles, Elizabeth and Polly. (The rest of his children, viz: Sally and Moses, being heretofore sold to him, and a bill of sale given for them by the said John T. Bowdoin, on the 19th day of December, in the year of our Lord, 1814.) To have and to hold the aforesaid slaves forever, &c. &c.

EDW. FAULCON, Att'y in fact for
JOHN T. BOWDOIN. [SEAL.]

Signed, sealed and delivered in presence of

ELIZA B. PRENTIS,
MARY ANN PRENTIS.

Mr. Brown was 23 years in purchasing himself and family. The money was earned entirely by overwork, when under the regular employment of his master.

The following reasons were given by his master, for allowing him the opportunity of buying himself:—

“Brunswick, 21st May, 1816.

“Godfrey, whom I emancipated, having requested me to state the considerations which induced me to consent that he should purchase himself, I have no hesitation in saying, that I was influenced by the high character which he supported for honesty and industry, and inoffensive behavior. I considered the circumstance of his having amassed, in a few years, money enough to purchase himself and a large family, as an incontestible proof of his unwearied industry, and the opinions of those in his immediate neighborhood, who knew him best, were concurrent in his favor. These instances of extraordinary merit, induced me to sell him and his family at a lower price, than I should have asked from any other purchaser.

JOHN T. BOWDOIN.”

George Moss, who resides near Waynesville, Warren Co., was a slave till the age of 35. He paid \$550 for himself, and

\$400 for his wife. He has now been free 32 years, and owns two farms; one of 133 acres, worth \$4,000—the other on the Miami bottom, of 157 acres, worth between 4 and \$5,000.— Besides these, he owns 8 village lots, worth \$1,200, 9 horses, 75 hogs, 13 head of cattle, and 25 sheep.

He was 7 years in laying up his freedom-money, and during the whole of this time, he performed the ordinary labor of a slave for his master. The only time which he got to work for himself, was nights and Sundays, which he spent in making and selling baskets and brooms.

Before he could be emancipated, the law of South Carolina required that five freeholders and a Justice of Quorum should be satisfied of his honesty and capability of gaining a livelihood. The following is the article given by them:—

“We hereby certify, upon the examination, on oath, of Bird Murphy, the owner of a certain slave named George, about thirty-five years old, satisfactory proof has been given to us, that the said slave is not of bad character, and is capable of gaining a livelihood by honest means. Given under our hand, this 2d day of December, 1805.

Union District, S. C.
ANDREW TORRENCE, J. Q.

ROBERT WHITE,
MARK MURPHY,
WM. RAY,
ROBT. ^{his} BOATMAN,
^{mark.}
W. WOOLBANKS.”

This man is quite a trader, and has, at different times, suffered severely on account of our laws. In one instance, he advanced a man \$100 in trade, and afterwards loaned him \$10 more. Not long after, he came to pay the \$10 note; but on looking them over, he took out the \$100 note, paid the \$10, and afterwards refused to pay more—saying that he had settled it. So strong was public opinion against him, however, he was obliged to leave Waynesville. He is now a Methodist preacher.

Many of our colored population come recommended very highly by their neighbors, and were it not for our prejudice against their *color*, we should receive them as the best gift of a sister state. We might fill a volume in copying papers, tes-

timonials of good character and industry, of those who have come to reside amongst us from Kentucky, Virginia, &c. We will give one or two as a specimen:—

Anthony Barcor, was a slave till he was 40 years old. He purchased himself, and paid \$666 to his owner. This money he made whilst a slave, by purchasing his time, paying his owner from 100 to \$120 per year. After obtaining his own freedom, he purchased his wife and three children. For these, he paid \$550.

He came to this state in 1832. The following recommendation was given him by the Mayor and Common Council of Fredericksburgh, Va., and signed by fifty of the principal inhabitants, including ministers, lawyers, physicians and members of Congress.

“The bearer of this certificate, who is a free man of color, being about to remove to the state of Ohio with his family, and desiring to carry with him some testimonial, which will be serviceable to him in his new residence among strangers: now we, the subscribers, inhabitants of the town of Fredericksburgh, in the state of Virginia, do hereby certify that Anthony Barcor, the bearer of this, has lived in this town and neighborhood all his life—that he is a bricklayer and plasterer by trade, and by the fruits of his labor, after paying for and procuring his own freedom, he has, by a course of persevering industry, purchased the freedom of his family, consisting of his wife and several children. His character has been uniformly, that of a sober, orderly, industrious man. The subscribers believe he has no other motive for leaving his residence here, but the apprehension that he may be compelled by some general act of the Legislature, providing for the removal of free negroes from the state.

“We, therefore, very cheerfully bear testimony to the uniform sobriety of his habits, to his indefatigable industry, and his general probity and good conduct.”

To this, Gen. Taylor, of Newport, adds the following:—

“I am well acquainted with most of the gentlemen whose signatures are affixed to the foregoing testimonial, and full faith and reliance may be placed in the same.

JAMES TAYLOR, *Newport, Ky.*”

Nov. 22, 1832.

A colored blacksmith, who has a shop on the corner of Walnut and Columbia streets, came from Virginia very highly recommended by the Ex-President James Madison, and the Hon. P. Barbour. In fact, a *majority* of our colored population are made up of the "bone and sinew" of the land.

They have come to this state generally well recommended, and were they now to leave, they could go as well recommended, by those who best know them.

The following testimonial was given to this blacksmith, when about to leave his native town, and signed by thirty of the principal men.

"We certify that we have known William Rolls, the bearer hereof, who has kept a blacksmith shop at Orange Court House, Va., for a great number of years. He is considered an excellent smith for mill work and various kinds of machinery, plantation work, &c. We take pleasure in adding, that he is a sober and industrious man, and has appeared remarkably upright, so far 'as we have had transactions with him.

"Given under our hands, this 16th July, 1834, Orange Ct. House, Va."

This man has purchased his wife and two daughters, for whom he paid \$1,130.

Squire Ford paid \$500 for himself and wife. He was, till his 58th year, in saving the money. He now drives a waggon of his own in Cincinnati. He has the following certificate:—

"*Lynchburg, Va. 10th Nov. 1825.*

"Squire, the bearer hereof, and his wife Esther, belonged to me some two or three years ago, for four years. I found them, so far as I know, to be honest and dutiful servants. Squire, for some time, had the measurement of grain which came to a large distillery, and kept the account of grain taken in and the whiskey paid for it. I don't now recollect of a single instance of dissatisfaction, from any body.

"THOS. RUDD."

So general is the impression, of those who have little or no knowledge on the subject, that the negroes cannot take care of themselves, that they are bad citizens, being idle and worth-

less, and troublesome, we consider it necessary, in order to vindicate their character and place it in its true light, to add facts and testimony, collected from other parts of the country, and also from other countries.

We introduce first, the testimony of Gen. Jackson. It is his address to the colored troops, made in 1814, at New Orleans:—

“SOLDIERS,—When, on the banks of the Mobile, I called you to take up arms, inviting you to partake the perils and glory of your white fellow-citizens, I expected much from you—for I was not ignorant that you possessed qualities most formidable to an invading enemy. I knew with what fortitude you could endure hunger and thirst, and all the fatigues of a campaign.—I knew well how you loved your native country, and that you had, as well as ourselves, to defend what man holds most dear—his parents, relations, wife, children and property. You have done more than I expected. In addition to the qualities which I knew you to possess, I find moreover among you, a noble enthusiasm, which leads to the performance of great things. Soldiers—The President of the United States shall hear how praiseworthy was your conduct in the hour of danger, and the representatives of the American people will, I doubt not, give you the praise which your deeds deserve.—Your General anticipates them in applauding your noble ardor. The enemy approaches—his vessels cover our lakes—our brave citizens are united, and all contention has ceased among them. Their only dispute is who shall win the prize of valor, or who the most glory, its noblest reward.

“By order, (signed) THOS. BUTLER.”

Their social habits are clearly set forth by the following facts:—

NEW YORK.

“In the city of New York, the colored population is about 18,000. They have 7 Methodist churches, 1 Presbyterian, 1 Episcopalian, 2 Baptist—11 city schools, five of which are supported by themselves, and taught by colored teachers—20 benevolent societies, 5 literary societies with 4 libraries, and

2 temperance societies. They have one newspaper, ably edited by a colored man. Their public property in churches, school houses, &c., is valued at \$113,000."

PITTSBURGH.

"In Pittsburgh and its vicinity, they number about 2,500. They have two churches, two day schools of 160 scholars, two Sunday schools, a temperance society of 170 members, a moral reform society, four benevolent societies; one of which reported in its treasury \$220. The object of these societies, is to relieve their members and friends when sick. The average number of paupers, is three per year, as reported by the overseer of the poor.

"They pay an annual tax of \$422.

"Amongst them, are carpenters, blacksmiths, bricklayers, stone-masons, boot and shoe makers, plasterers, painters, tanners and curriers, coppersmiths and shipwrights; and in the vicinity are several farmers."

PHILADELPHIA.

"Philadelphia had, in 1830, a colored population of 36,000—the proportion to the whites, as 1 to 9.

"In the same year, out of 549 out-of-door paupers, only 22 were colored; i. e. 4 per cent. Of the paupers admitted into the alms house, the proportion is nearly the same.

"In the same year, the payments by colored people to poor funds,

funds,	-	-	-	-	-	\$2,500
--------	---	---	---	---	---	---------

"Expenditure for colored people,	-	-	-	-	2,000
----------------------------------	---	---	---	---	-------

"Balance paid by the colored people for help of					
poor whites,	-	-	-	-	500

"The rents paid by the colored people were upwards of \$100,000.

"They had 6 Methodist meeting houses, 2 Presbyterian, 2 Baptist, 1 Episcopalian, 1 Public Hall, 2 Sunday schools, 2 tract societies, 2 temperance societies, 1 Female Literary Institution, and 50 beneficent societies.

"These societies raise and expend, annually, upwards of \$7,000, for mutual aid."

[Taken from a memorial to the Legislature of Pennsylvania.]

NEW BEDFORD, MASSACHUSETTS.

"In New Bedford, Mass., the colored population is 1,200.— Fifty own real estate, valued at 70,000 dollars. The brig Rising Sun is owned by a company of colored men in New Bedford, and manned by an entire colored crew. Richard Johnson, agent; Edward J. Pompey, master; William Cuffee, mate; William Hambleton, 2d mate.

"Said brig and outfits cost \$5,500, and sailed from the port of New Bedford to the South Atlantic Ocean, on a voyage of twelve months. The whole number of officers and men is fifteen."

UPPER CANADA.

We make the following extract from a letter written by Hiram Wilson, dated Toronto, Upper Canada, February 6, 1837:—

"The colored population of this city and vicinity is about 600. Most of them are from Virginia and Kentucky; but some were driven here by the memorable storm of persecution that burst upon the colored population of Cincinnati, in 1829.

"At the time of the emigration to Canada, the people of color had serious difficulties to encounter. Newspapers came from New York and Ohio, representing them as the 'offscouring of creation,' 'thievish,' 'indolent and degraded,' 'a perfect pest to society.' * * * They are now an industrious, thriving people. Some have gained money very fast. One man is said to be worth \$30,000. Some have accumulated from 3 to 4,000 dollars each; others have gone from here into the country, purchased land, and are doing well.

"Their moral condition is much better than I expected. They have two Methodist churches of 54 members, and one Baptist of 66.

"It is often said in the States, 'they are an insolent people.' Nothing is more false. I venture to say, that no people in this Province, or in the United States, are more respectful in their demeanor, than the colored people of this place. A more independent people are rarely to be found. Colored beggars are seldom seen here, though white ones are numerous. Gen-

tllemen frequently remark, that they are seldom, if ever, troubled with beggars of color, though white ones are daily at their doors.

“Wood is provided by public charity for the poor, but no colored person ever applies for it. A public soup house is kept here, which is frequented daily by scores of poor people, but the face of a colored person is never seen there.

“Where is the man that has ever seen a colored person drunk in the streets of Toronto?” said a member of Parliament, at a great anti slavery meeeting. The judges and magistrates say, that the proportionate number of criminal cases among them is exceedingly small. I here subjoin the testimony of others. The first is of the same political party of the colored people. The other two are opposed to them.

Toronto, Jan. 26, 1837.

THE HON. CAPT. DUNLOP, *Mem. of the Prov. Parliament:*

DEAR SIR,—As Agent for the Am. Anti-Slavery Society, and in behalf of the same, permit me respectfully, to present you the following inquiries respecting the people of color of this city. 1. Are they loyal subjects of the Government? 2. As a people, are they as honest, as industrious, as temperate and as well behaved as the white citizens? 3. In proportion to their number, are criminal cases more numerous among them than among the whites? 4. Do any of them beg from door to door, or depend on public charity for sustenance, and if so, are such cases proportionately more numerous than among the whites?

H. WILSON.

House of Assembly, Toronto, Jan. 29, 1837.

DEAR SIR,—Permit me to assure you that I feel much pleasure in replying to your communication of yesterday, and in recording my testimony, whether in my capacity as a subject, or in my public as a magistrate and representative of the people, it gives me infinite satisfaction to say, that after much observation and some experience, I have arrived at this conclusion, namely;—that there are not in His Majesty’s dominions, a more loyal, honest, industrious, temperate and independent class of citizens, than the colored people of Upper

Canada. Go on, therefore, my dear sir, in your work of charity, and let us pray fervently to the Most High that he will look down with compassion on the degraded children of Africa, and lead them as he did his chosen people of old, from your modern Egypt of oppression.

I remain, dear sir,

Yours, very sincerely,

R. G. DUNLOP,

*Capt. R. N., M. P. for the City of Huron,
and (I rejoice to add) Pres't. of the
Anti-Slavery Soc. of U. C.*

HIRAM WILSON, *Agent for the Anti-Slavery Society.*

Toronto, January 30, 1837.

MR. HIRAM WILSON,

Sir,—In reply to your inquiries, I beg to offer my opinion with much diffidence: 1st. That nearly all of them are opposed to every species of reform in the civil institutions of the colony—they are so extravagantly loyal to the Executive, that to the utmost of their power they uphold all the abuses of Government, and support those who profit by them. 2d. As a people, they are as well behaved as a majority of the whites, and perhaps more temperate. 3d. To your third question I would say, “not more numerous.” 4th. Cases in which colored people ask public charity are rare, as far as I can recollect. I am opposed to slavery, whether of whites or blacks, in every form. I wish to live long enough to see the people of this continent, of the humblest classes, educated and free, and held in respect according to their conduct and attainments, without reference to country, color, or worldly substance. But I regret, that an unfounded fear of a union with the United States, on the part of the colored population, should have induced them to oppose reform and free institutions in this colony, whenever they had the power to do so.—The apology I make for them in this matter is, that they have not been educated as freemen.

I am your respectful

Humble servant,

W. B. MACKENZIE.

Mr. M. has been a distinguished officer of the Government, and Mayor of Toronto. His influence has caused all Upper Canada to rock like an earthquake. H. W.

Toronto, January 28, 1837.

Sir—In acknowledging the receipt of your letter of the 26th inst., containing certain queries relating to the people of color in this city, I have much pleasure in affording my testimony for the information of the society of which you state yourself to be the agent, at the same time begging you will consider my observation as strictly applicable to the people of color within this city and immediate neighborhood, to which alone my knowledge extends. In reply to question No. 1. I believe them to be truly loyal subjects of the Government. 2dly. As a people, I have no reason to question their honesty or industry, and as far as my observation serves me, they appear to be both temperate and well behaved. 3d. I am not aware that criminal cases are more numerous with them than with others, in proportion to their numbers.

But with respect to your 4th query, I wish to be more explicit, and to remark, that although I have been in the habit of daily contributing my assistance to a vast number of destitute poor, ever since my residence in this province, now seventeen years, I do not remember ever having been solicited for alms by more than one or two people of color,* during the whole course of that period. I am, Sir,

Your most obed't servant,

JOHN H. DUNN,

Receiver General Upper Canada.

HIRAM WILSON.

TRINIDAD.

“During the last American war, seven hundred and seventy-four slaves escaped from their masters, and were, at the termination of the war, settled in Trinidad as free laborers, where they are earning their own livelihood with industry and good conduct.”

* I learn from a gentleman that one of the persons Mr. D. refers to, is a poor cripple who has had both of his legs amputated.

H. WILSON.

The following is an extract of a letter, received in 1829, from Trinidad, by Mr. Pownall:—"In Trinidad there are upwards of 15,000 free people of color; *there is not a single pauper amongst them*; they live independently and comfortably. It is admitted that they are highly respectable in character, and are rapidly advancing in knowledge and refinement."

Mr. Mitchell, a sugar planter, who had resided twenty-seven years in Trinidad, and who is the superintendent of the liberated negroes there, says "he knows of no instance of a manumitted slave not maintaining himself."

BRAZIL.

Mr. Walsh states that in Brazil there are six hundred thousand enfranchised persons, either Africans, or of African descent, who were either slaves themselves, or the descendants of slaves. He says they are, generally speaking, well conducted and industrious persons, who compose, indiscriminately, different orders of the community. There are among them, merchants, farmers, doctors, lawyers, priests, and officers of different ranks. Every considerable town in the interior has regiments composed of them. The benefits arising from them have disposed the whites to think of making free the whole negro population."

Mr. Kester, an Englishman living in Brazil, confirms Mr. Walsh's statement.

Instead of swelling our memorial with needless details, and adding particulars which may be uninteresting, we will close this part of our subject, with the testimony of one who had the best opportunities for knowing the true character of the free colored people.

Extract of a letter from Gov. GILES of Va. to Gen. LAFAYETTE, dated August 20th, 1829.

"In relation to the free people of color, I am far from yielding to the opinions expressed by the intelligent committee of the house of delegates of Virginia, and the enthusiastic memorialists of Powhatan, respecting the degraded and demoralizing condition of this *caste*; at least in degree and extent. It will

be admitted that this *caste* of colored population attract but little of the public sympathy and commiseration,—in fact that the public feeling and sentiment are opposed to it. It is also admitted that the penal laws against it have been marked with peculiar severity; so much so as to form a characteristic exception to our whole penal code. When I first came into the office of Governor, such was the severity of the penal laws against that *caste*, that for all capital offences short of the punishment of death, and for many offences not capital, *slavery*, *sale*, and *transportation* formed the WRETCHED DOOM pronounced by the laws against this unfavored, despised *caste* of colored people. About two years since, this extreme severity of punishment was commuted in the milder one of confinement and labor for stated periods in the penitentiary. I have also reason to fear, that under the influence of general prejudice, the laws, in some instances, have been administered against them more in rigor than in justice. Yet, notwithstanding all these deprecated circumstances, *the proportion of convicts to the whole population has been small.*

During the existence of these extreme punishments, up to the present period, the whole population of that description of people may be considered at the beginning, to be about 35,000, now increased to about 40,000, in despite all the efforts of the Colonization Society, and notwithstanding the operation of the laws in favor of emigration, and against immigration. During the existence of these extreme punishments, the annual convictions for offences did not exceed eleven upon an increasing population of 35,000. Since the commutation of the punishment the annual average of the convicts upon the increased population of 40,000 *is reduced to eight*, as will be seen by an official report of the Superintendent of the Penitentiary, forwarded herewith. The proportion, therefore, of the annual convictions, to the whole population, is as 1 to 5,000. These facts serve to prove almost to a demonstration—1st, That this class of population is by no means so vicious, degraded and demoralized as represented by their prejudiced friends, and voluntary benefactors, (the Colonizationists). 2d. That the evils attributed to this caste are vastly magnified and exaggerated.”

Objection 2d.—“*If we should equalize our laws it would encourage them to settle in our state in greater numbers.*”

1. What if they should. So long as they are industrious and honest, they add so much to the wealth of the state. They are also quite as useful and as intelligent as many of the foreigners who are settling amongst us.

2. But, in reality we do not believe this effect would follow from the repeal of those laws. The census of 1830 gave the number of our colored population at 9,586. We have no facts to justify the belief that this number has been diminished or its augmentation prevented on account of these laws. It is true, some have removed from the state, and others may have been prevented from coming into it. But this would hold true only of the most worthy—those who have too much self-respect to submit to the degradation; whilst those at whom these laws are aimed, the vicious and the idle, are too low to feel their pressure—consequently they are no barrier to such, nor are they very inconvenient.

We, therefore, incur the disgrace of perpetuating injustice, without receiving any of its anticipated blessings, and really injure ourselves by keeping out an industrious and a valuable class of men, whilst our barriers are not sufficient to keep out the worthless.

3. Whilst only one hundredth part of our population are colored, it cannot be said that we need these laws as a measure of self-defence.

As justice, humanity, and true policy, therefore, are on our side, we will close with the prayer, that the rays of our genial government may be shed equally on all, the high and the low, the rich and the poor—that the cloud which has so long hung over our colored inhabitants, may be made to pass away. We pray, that you will distribute equally those gifts which a bountiful Providence has put into your hands. As giving will not impoverish you, we earnestly pray, nay we claim, in the name of our common humanity, in the name of that equal liberty of which we make our boast, in the name of the religion of an equal God, that justice may be done to our colored fellow-citizens, by the immediate repeal of all those laws which now harrass, degrade and injure them.

A. WATTLES.

A. HOPKINS.

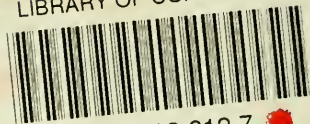








LIBRARY OF CONGRESS



0 011 562 612 7

